

Well, that is when the IRA had finally had enough. They withdrew today their interlocutor from the IICD, and said that until the suspension of the Power-Sharing Executive is lifted they would suspend their activities on decommissioning.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the need to be very clear here once again. The IRA is still holding to the ceasefire and still wants to see the implementation of the Good Friday agreement. They just want the democratic institutions created under the agreement to remain in effect, not an unreasonable request. I do not think it is unreasonable.

Let me just say that I am deeply disappointed by Mr. Trimble's decision to reject the new proposition on IRA decommissioning. I agree with the IICD that it would have been a major step forward. Clearly, the IRA has been an active participant in the peace process, and important progress has been made. Unfortunately, David Trimble and Peter Mandelson have dismissed these significant developments.

For far too long the people of Northern Ireland have been waiting for the democratic institutions created under the Good Friday agreement to become an effective force for peace and stability. Mr. Speaker, the time for inside politics is over.

The Ulster Unionist Party and the British government must let the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning complete its work. We have come too far and too many lives are at stake. We must not allow one man, one man to destroy a process agreed to by the people of Northern Ireland, Southern Ireland, and Great Britain.

I have a personal stake in this peace process. My mother was born in County Armagh in Northern Ireland, and I have many family, friends, and loved ones who will either enjoy or suffer in their lives, depending on what happens during this process. Only a return to the political framework agreed to under the historic Good Friday agreement will resolve the current crisis and move it forward to continue on to the creation of a new Ireland.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his participation in this special order tonight, and for contributing his thoughts and ideas.

His summation of the situation is very, very clear and accurate. There is the need to stick to the agreement, the initial agreement that got us this far.

I would like to also thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for participating.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with a brief story about a personal experience that I had. My family and I adopted a Project Children child from Northern Ireland back in 1990, a young man I believe about 12 years old at the time. He had never been outside of Northern Ireland.

He came to Syracuse, New York, by a plane, flew over, the first time he had ever been in a plane, and lived with us for 6 weeks. He had some trouble adapting to American food and music. He was a terrific soccer player, though, and we stuck him on our summer team as a ringer and he played great soccer. He loved to fish, he loved to be around the water. He just loved the peace and solitude of upstate New York.

He went back. I did not see him for 5 years. I went over when President Clinton went to Northern Ireland. On that historic day when they went to City Hall to dress the Christmas tree, I went to Michael Lyons' home and met with his mom and his sisters, and had a wonderful visit.

His mother told me that for the first time in his young life, and he was then 17 years old, for the first time in 17 years of his life, other than the 6 weeks he spent in upstate New York, he had never known peace before. This was the first time he could walk to school or go to the store or visit a friend and not have to worry about a bomb going off, a car driving by and riddling his friends and fellow citizens with automatic weapons, fire breaking out throughout the neighborhood, murals on the walls with masked men and rifles.

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That was his whole life for 17 years. She said he can now walk down the street without being tugged and pulled at by those who want to draw him into this fight. He does not have to make that choice anymore; you are either with us or you are against us. He does not have to make the choice of going to war or going to school.

For the first time in 17 years, it is a remarkable event for any country. There are very few places in the world where war has gone on for 30 years, but nonetheless that was his life.

Today, 5 years later, there is still peace but it is tenuous.

I remember when I first engaged myself in this peace process I said to Jerry Adams, I said to David Trimble, when they were first coming, what do you expect to get from this peace process?

He said, peace; a straightforward answer.

I said to Jerry Adams, when I met him at a different time, I said, what do you expect to get from this peace process?

He said, peace, with justice.

Therein lies the problem. Two people who inhabit the same city, believe in the same God, speak the same language, have the same hobbies and habits and interests, one group has justice, one group has no justice. In order for there to be peace, there has to be justice. In order for there to be justice, everyone has to agree on the way forward. The only agreement thus far that everyone has agreed to is the Good Friday Agreement, and just like us, in our country, when crisis comes, impeachment, war, we do not set the Constitution on the side while we work it out.

We honor it, we respect it, we live by it, we write our laws by it and we govern by it.

The only way for this process to go forward is to have everyone come back and sit down and say, yes, this is the only way we can go, this is the only thing we all agree to, and, therefore, in order to get to that bright future over the horizon, let us again swear to support this agreement.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. WALSH, the distinguished Chairman of the Friends of Ireland for tonight's Special Order.

The Irish peace process is in crisis and we need to make sure that both governments and peace loving people around the globe know what happened and why we are here.

It is disappointing and a step backwards in the search for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland that the British Government has suspended the vital power sharing institutions that had been the best chance to produce overall change in the north. Even after positive steps were being made to resolve the arms issue, the unionist veto by the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) was again exercised to force suspension under the threat of resignation by the UUP's First Minister, David Trimble.

Terms of the Good Friday Accord set out the time frames and means to bring about lasting change, including removal of the guns from Irish politics. Those who have unilaterally changed its terms and exercised a veto over its operation and terms once again must explain their intransigence to the Irish people, both north and south, who support the Good Friday Accord in overwhelming terms.

We need to get the institutions back up and running in order to create the climate and framework for arms decommissioning as envisioned by the terms of the Good Friday Accord.

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. LOWEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and February 16 on account of illness.

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. BAIRD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of an unavoidable family matter.

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SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BALDACCIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BALDACCIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CROWLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PASCRELL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HANSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RILEY, for 5 minutes, February 16.

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SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1052. An act to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 16, 2000, at 10 a.m.

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EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6197. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas [Docket No. 99-042-2] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6198. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the report of expenditures of appropriations during the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 162b; to the Committee on Appropriations.

6199. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the 2000 Department of Defense Annual Report to the President and the Congress, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 113 (c) and (e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6200. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Mentor-Protege Program Improvements [DFARS Case 99-D307] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6201. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; People's Republic of China [DFARS Case 98-D305] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6202. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Delegation of Class Deviation Authority [DFARS Case 99-D027] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6203. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of

Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Insurance; Right of First Refusal Permitted for Condominium Associations [Docket No. FR-4267-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AG93) received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6204. A letter from the Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, transmitting a report on Strengthening Institutions Programs and Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6205. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the department's final rule—New Drug Applications; Drug Master Files [Docket No. 94N-0449] (RIN: 0910-AA78) received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce.

6206. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites [FRL-6532-7] received February 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6207. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Regional Transmission Organizations [Docket No. RM99-2-000; Order No. 2000] received January 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6208. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6209. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the reports containing the 30 September 1999 status of loans and guarantees issued under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

6210. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period from April 1 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6211. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Semiannual Management Report to Congress: April 1, 1999 to September 30, 1999 and the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the same period, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4062(c); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6212. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting List of all reports issued or released by the GAO in December 1999, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6213. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 2000 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6214. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Merit Systems Protection Board report titled, "Restoring Merit to Federal Hiring: Why Two Special Hiring Programs Should be Ended."; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6215. A letter from the Director, National Counterintelligence Center, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act from October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6216. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Plant *Thlaspi californicum* (Kneeland Prairie Penny-Cress) from Coastal Northern California (RIN: 1018-AE55) received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6217. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (RIN: 1018-AF87) received February 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6218. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on State Sex Offender Public Information Programs and the Feasibility of Establishing a National Sex Offender Hotline January 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6219. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, transmitting Transportation Statistics Annual Report 1999, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 111(f); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6220. A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the United States Government Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ended from September 30, 1999, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 331(b)(1)(a); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6221. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Last-in, First-out inventories, Department Store Indexes—December 1999 [Rev. Rul. 2000-10] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6222. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—New Technologies in Retirement Plans (RIN: 1545-AW78) [TD 8873] received February 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6223. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting a report on the results of its monitoring of developments with respect to the domestic industry since quantitative limitations on imports of wheat gluten were imposed on June 1, 1998; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6224. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that the Department of Health and Human Services is allotting emergency funds; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

6225. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the FY2001 Budget Request; jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Appropriations, and Government Reform.

6226. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Social Security Administration's Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 904; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Government Reform, and the Judiciary.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows: